

Worksession

Agenda Item #	7
Meeting Date	19 March 2007
Prepared By	Ilona Blanchard Senior Planner
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Neighborhood Traffic Studies Update
Background	<p>The Council will be provided with an update on the status of the neighborhood traffic study project, endorsed by the Council earlier this year. The study was included in the City's FY07 budget in response to concerns raised by the community regarding a number of traffic related problems including cut through traffic from various sources and speeding in residential neighborhoods.</p> <p>Community residents were notified in February that the City was soliciting requests for neighborhood traffic studies. Requests received by the February 23 deadline were evaluated by staff and ranked accordingly. Four of the seven proposed study areas were found to meet the minimum criteria established for the planned study. Requests were rated according to the following criteria presented to the Council during its January 8 worksession:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The nature of the identified problem - Eligible study areas should address traffic calming concerns specifically the volume and speed of vehicular traffic.2. The impact of the extent of the identified problem - Approved projects should address a larger roadway network at the neighborhood level and not an individual street or intersection.3. Jurisdictional authority - Projects located on State or County roadways should be forwarded to the appropriate entity for action with available resources dedicated to local roadways. <p>A request for proposals for the planned study has been issued with submissions due April 13. Staff anticipates returning to the Council in mid to late April at which time a contract for required services would be considered. The Safe Roadways Committee will be provided an opportunity to participate in the review of consultants responding to the RFP.</p>

	<p>A review of the proposed study areas found that several of the problems raised by the community were more appropriately addressed by the State Highway Administration (SHA). Staff has since contacted SHA and is working with them to address identified concerns along Piney Branch Road, Carroll Avenue, Ethan Allen Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue, and New Hampshire Avenue. Other concerns raised by the community - poor signage on local streets for example - will be addressed internally.</p>
Policy	<p><u>Takoma Park Master Plan Adopted December 2000</u></p> <p>Protect residential neighborhoods from commercial and through traffic. To discourage through traffic from using local streets, the City of Takoma Park seeks to reduce operating speeds by installing speed humps, ovals, all way stop signs and other impediments. The City also encourages walking, biking, transit use, telecommuting and flexible work schedules.</p> <p>Where very few cars use a street, and sidewalks are not desired by residents, a mixed street can be designated. Traffic calming measures should be considered along both selected Major Neighborhood Routes and other local neighborhood streets.</p>
Fiscal Impact	The FY07 budget includes funding in the amount of \$25,000
Attachments	Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study Response Evaluation and Ranking
Recommendation	No action is required
Special Consideration	All studies would need to be completed by June 30.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study Request Evaluation and Ranking

Requestor	Councilmember Seamens	New Hampshire Garden's Citizen Association	Long Branch-Sligo Citizen's Association	Ms. Stacy Gilbert	Old Town Resident's Association	Councilmember Austin-Lane	Councilmember Williams
Identified Roadways	Ritchie Avenue Piney Branch Rd	Neighborhood	Neighborhood	Ethan Allen	Neighborhood Maple Avenue Carroll Ave Philadelphia Ave Piney Branch Chestnut Old Philadelphia	Maple Avenue Carroll Ave Philadelphia Ave Piney Branch Chestnut Old Philadelphia	Pinecrest Neighborhood Takoma Junction Sycamore/Elm
Nature of problem	Volume	Volume	Volume Speed	Speed	Volume	Volume Speed	Volume Speed
Impact Area	Road	Neighborhood Network	Neighborhood Network	Road	Neighborhood Network, Several Roads	Duplicate neighborhood network as OTRA, Several Roads	Neighborhood network, Road, intersection
Jurisdictional Authority	City State Highway	City	City	State Highway	City State Highway	City State Highway	City
Additional Consideration	Request does not meet scope of project	Satisfies general scope	Satisfies general scope; Have offered to assist with data collection	Request does not meet scope of project	Request exceeds scope of project	Similar to requests submitted by OTRA	Satisfies general scope
Ranking		2	1		4		3
Action	Refer to SHA Address internally (Public Works and Police Dept)	Include in RFP	Include in RFP	Refer to SHA	Include in RFP Refer to SHA Address internally (Public Works and Police Dept)	Refer to SHA Address internally (Public Works and Police Dept)	Include in RFP Refer to SHA Address internally (Public Works and Police Dept)